

NEW JERSEY MILITIA NEWSLETTER

Volume IV, Issue No. I

A monthly newsletter

July, 1998

THE COLD, HARD FACTS ABOUT GUNS

--By John R. Lott, Jr.

America may indeed be obsessed with guns, but much of what passes as fact simply isn't true. The news media's focus on only tragic outcomes, while ignoring potential tragedies that were averted, may be responsible for some misimpressions.

Horrific events like the recent shooting in Arkansas receive massive news coverage, as they should, but the 2.5 million times each year that people use guns defensively are never discussed—including cases where public shootings are stopped before they happened.

Unfortunately, these misimpressions have real costs for people's safety.

Many myths needlessly frighten people and prevent them from defending themselves most effectively.

Myth #1: When one is attacked, passive behavior is the safest approach. The Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey reports that the probability of serious injury from an attack is 2.5 times greater for women offering no resistance than for women resisting with a gun. Men also benefit from using a gun, but the benefits are smaller: Offering no resistance is 1.4 times more likely to result in serious injury than resisting with a gun.

Myth #2: Friends or relatives are the most likely killers. The myth is usually based on two claims:

- 1) 58 percent of murder victims are killed by either relatives or acquaintances, and
- 2) anyone could be a murder victim.

With the broad definition of "acquaintances" used in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, most victims are indeed classified as knowing their killer.

However, what is not made clear is that acquaintance murder primarily includes drug buyers killing drug pushers, cabdrivers killed by first-time customers, gang members killing other gang members, prostitutes killed by their clients, and so on.

Only one city, Chicago, reports a precise breakdown on the nature of acquaintance killings: between 1990 and 1995, just 17 percent of murder victims were either family members, friends, neighbors and/or roommates.

Murderers also are not your average citizen. For example, about 90 percent of adult murderers have already had a criminal record as an adult. Murderers are overwhelmingly young males with low IQs and who have difficult times getting along with others. Furthermore, unfortunately, murder is disproportionately committed against black and by blacks.

Myth #3: The United States has such a high murder rate because Americans have so many guns.

There is no international evidence backing this up. The Swiss, New Zealanders and Finns all own guns as frequently as Americans, yet in 1995 Switzerland had a murder rate 40 percent lower than Germany's, and New Zealand had one lower than Australia's. Finland and Sweden have very different guns ownership rates, but very similar murder rates. Israel, with a higher gun ownership rate than the U.S., has a murder rate 40 percent below Canada's.

When one studies all countries rather than just a select few as is usually done, there is absolutely no relationship between gun ownership and murder.

Myth #4: If law-abiding citizens are allowed to carry concealed handguns, people will end up shooting each other after traffic accidents as well as accidentally shooting police officers.

Millions of people currently hold concealed handgun permits, and some states have issued them for as long as 60 years. Yet only one permit holder has ever been arrested for using a concealed handgun after a traffic accident and that case was ruled as self-defense. The type of person willing to go through the permitting process is extremely law-abiding. In Florida, almost 444,000 licenses were granted from 1987 to 1997, but only 84 people have lost their licenses for felonies involving firearms. Most

violations that lead to permits being revoked involve firearms accidentally carried into restricted areas, like airports or schools. In Virginia, not a single permit holder has committed a violent crime. Similarly encouraging results have been reported for Kentucky, Nevada, North Carolina, Texas and Tennessee (the only other states where information is available).

Myth #5: The family gun is more likely to kill or injure someone you know than to kill in self-defense.

The studies yielding such numbers never actually inquired as to whose gun was used in the killing. Instead, if a household owned a gun and if a person in that household or someone they knew was shot to death while in the home, the gun in that household was blamed. In fact, virtually all the killings in these studies were committed by guns brought in by an intruder. No more than four percent of the gun deaths can be attributed to the homeowner's gun. The very fact that most people were killed by intruders also surely raises questions about why they own guns in the first place and whether they had sufficient protection.

These are only some of the myths about guns and crime that drive the public policy debate. We must not lose sight of the ultimate question: Will allowing law-abiding citizens to own guns save lives? The evidence strongly indicates that it does.

GUN SEIZURE IN NJ

Little Egg Harbor, NJ-- *"Skittish after a wave of school shootings, police arrested a 15-year-old boy and seized more than 20 guns legally owned by his father after the boy showed a teacher a drawing of someone being shot"*, reported the AP May 28.

The drawing depicted someone in the crosshairs of a scope, yelling "help."

A prosecutor in Ocean County charged the student with making "terroristic threats."

The *Asbury Park Press* reported that, *"The 15-year-old boy charged with threatening his English teacher [who was not depicted in the drawing] is under court order not to go outside without parental supervision."*

"Other kids get 10-day suspensions and they are allowed to go back to school, but R.J. draws a picture and he is made out to look like Charles Manson," said Mrs. Krawiec, the boy's mother.

Sheila Sledden, the teacher who felt threatened by R.J.'s art work, told guidance counselors about the drawing but they didn't believe it was serious and did nothing. Sledden then contacted police on her own.

The boy's father has four gun safes in the house and keeps everything locked up, including ammunition.

WHAT THE MEDIA DIDN'T REPORT ON MEMORIAL DAY

Over the Memorial Day weekend an estimated 750,000 bikers showed up in Washington, DC, to bring attention to the plight of veterans, POWs, MIAs and their families.

The rally, known as Rolling Thunder XI, had so many motorcycles it closed 18 miles of highway.

Joyce Riley, one of the invited speakers, said, "Where were the Senators? Congressmen? Pentagon officials? Where were the military leaders and so-called Viet Nam War heroes who claim to stand for their men? Where was the American Legion? The VFW? The Veteran's Administration? How could this many people be gathered for such a worthy cause and have the American media black this out all over the country?"

"This gathering of real Americans is designed to send a message to Washington that those that were willing to die for their country will never be forgotten or forsaken, we are only getting stronger," said National Chairman of Rolling Thunder, Art Muller. Stronger may be an understatement--next Memorial Day they're expecting one and a half million bikers to attend.

THE NEW COLD WAR

Used to be, in times past, that the former Soviet Union was considered a threat to America. Today the government thinks it's the militias. With the Cold War over, Washington needs a new Bogeyman to fill the gap. We've all heard of Urban Warfare maneuvers, and one was recently held here in N.J. The military only served as advisors and were not involved directly but several departments of law enforcement were.

This is not news, but the scenario certainly is. The Home News Tribune reported on June 11, 1998: "Members of bomb-squad units from the FBI, state police and many northern New Jersey police departments were told a security guard had stumbled onto an enclave of the mythical New Insurrection New Jersey

Alliance militia group. Members were making demands and holding hostages, they were told.

"Gunfire eventually ended the siege, but before the militia members were killed, they told officials the homes were littered with bombs that would go off at 4 p.m."

The article, titled "Squad Trains in Explosive Situation", cover two basic aspects of the training session: Killing militiamen and defusing bombs.

This may be the first "war game" in the country where the "enemy" was specifically identified as the militia. Anyone still think the Second Amendment isn't in trouble?

TAX REVOLT IN VERMONT

Last week these columns carried news that several small Vermont towns were withholding their tax money rather than comply with the wrongheaded "equalization" law on school spending. The rebellion is spreading. Already six towns have decided to withhold or to consider revolting against the Robin Hoods in Montpelier.

Searsburg, a town so small it has no ZIP code, is retaining its tax money. Whitingham has decided not to collect taxes in the first place. Plymouth will withhold payments until lawsuits challenging the law's legality are settled. And we hear Vermonters have been sighted walking their towns quoting a Thomas Jefferson line that seems apt for this overtaxed land: "I hold, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical."

--The Wall Street Journal, June 2, 1998

"ORDERS ARE PRESUMED LEGAL"

The above quote is from Army Captain Arthur Culter, one of the prosecutors in the trial against Michael New. If Culter is correct, the Allied Powers of WWII owe the defendants of the Nuremberg trials an apology. All of them claimed they were "just following orders," which said orders were, according to Culter, legal.

New is charged with illegally refusing to comply with a lawful order by not attaching a UN armband to his uniform. New said that he "...did not agree to be in a foreign military under foreign commanders."

FBI SEEKING TECHNOLOGY TO DECIPHER ENCRYPTION E-MAIL

The AP recently reported that, "FBI Director Louis Freeh will meet with some of the computer industry's top executives to

discuss whether investigators should be able to unscramble sensitive electronic messages."

Freeh will be meeting with some of the industry's top people: Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates; Netscape Communications Corp.'s Jim Barksdale; America On-line's Steve Case and Sun Microsystems' Scott McNealy.

"It's always nice to sit down and talk. We're hoping the industry will work with law enforcement to bring to the American public socially responsible services and products," said FBI Special Agent Charles Barry. "Socially responsible services" means software encryption that can be easily decoded by the government, i.e., "Government friendly." Senator Diane (I Hate The Second Amendment) Feinstein, "a strong supporter of tight restrictions on encryption," arranged the meeting. Attorney General Janet Reno said that, "Without encryption safeguards, all Americans will be endangered." That's total BS. How many people have you met that express fears about encrypted e-mail versus those who think it's a great idea?

What the government is really worried about is 'Cyber-Cash,' or 'Electronic Wallets.' Multi-million-dollar transfers of cash from bank to bank or out-of-the-country deposits without the IRS getting their 'cut'. That's the real reason why the government is opposed to encryption. The big loser in the Computer Age will be government by way of lost taxes--and experts in the field predict that it will only get worse in the future.

One of the most insightful Newsletters we've come across that deals with futuristic political & financial forecasting is *Strategic Weekly Briefings*. Subscribers say it's in a class by itself. (Note: We would agree and a one year subscription is not cheap: \$299 for a first-time subscription. You can reach them at 1-800-433-1528). What's interesting about the newsletter is that although it's strictly "in it for the money" and patriotism is a non-issue, their warnings are very much in line with what many Militia and Patriot groups have been saying.

SWB predicts that people (with lots of money) will change citizenship to whichever country offers the lowest tax rate. And you can expect countries to compete for these types of "citizens" in the next millennium. A true 'sovereign citizen' in the future will be someone who can pay for it. If you think patriotism is on the wane now wait and see what happens to it ten or twenty years from now.

Closing note: People who use encrypted e-mail are not as secure from the prying eyes of government as they think. Lee Adams, a "spy watcher" out of Victoria BC, Canada, said, "PGP [encryption software] =96 is a good

"Formerly we suffered from crimes, now we suffer from laws."

--Tacitus

example. It's a first-rate encryption but most people aren't using it correctly, mainly because they don't understand how the FBI operates. FBI methods are based on two classic strategies. Some methods rely on the FBI's ability to get inside your home or office undetected. Other methods involve electronic equipment that can detect what's happening on your computer. Most people don't even know they've been compromised."

Adams uses his web site (<http://www.spycounterspy.com>), an excellent web page and a must-see for all militia & patriot groups--Ed) to expose the methods the FBI uses to invade your privacy.

"We explain ten methods. Six of those methods involve surreptitious entry by the FBI. That's spy talk for break-and-enter. Most people have a difficult time accepting that a surveillance team can get inside undetected=96 not just once, but many times.

"The FBI often needs to make repeated entries in order to pick through your stuff. They've developed some fascinating methods for getting in =96 and we're finding that people are more serious about their privacy once they find out what the FBI has been up to.

"The first step is purely defensive, but once you've made it difficult for them to crack your e-mail, you can go on the offensive. It's possible to use bogus e-mail to detect the presence of a surveillance team you didn't realize was there. This method works against the FBI and the BATF teams. It's particularly effective against standard police surveillance."

THE POLLS ARE IN QUESTION

Will Our Government Stop IRS Abuse? ANSWERS

(A) I believe the IRS can and has gone too far. Our Founding Fathers would roll over in their graves if they knew what happened to our country. The number of abuse cases from the IRS is staggering and Congress better do something about it. 64% chose A.

(B) The IRS is just doing what it is told to do by other government officials. They have to do something to lessen the government debt. These guys are just doing their jobs. 4% chose B.

(C) I believe that Congress should put their foot down on IRS abuse. It is not fair for elderly widowed women to suffer because their dead husbands made a tax mistake. The government needs to take that into consideration. 3% chose C.

(D) I believe that Congress should clear the slate on all citizens and start over with a new record for everyone. They should implement more laws protecting people. We all know that it is big business that should have to help pay the tax debts. They are the ones that are paying

the officials to come after the little guys. 22% chose D.

(E) None of these above reflects my opinion. 8% chose E.

--Source: ParaPoll

COMING SOON TO YOUR CITY: FULL GUN REGISTRATION

We all knew it was coming and in another four months it'll be here:

"The name and full ID of every retail gun buyer in the country will be recorded by the FBI, starting Nov. 30. Social security number will be semi-optional until Oct. 1, 2000, when they become mandatory. A tax of up to \$16 will apply to every purchase, unless your state's police cooperate with the FBI (in which case the tax is waived); 19 such states are "playing" as of this date," reported Alan Korwin.

Buy now if you don't want to end up on the FBI's mailing list.

BUBONIC PLAGUE MAKING ITS DEBUT IN THE US

Authorities warned hikers and campers Tuesday (June 2) that two squirrels carrying bubonic plague had been found in a southern California wilderness area, reported Reuters News Service, June 9, 1998.

Moise Mizrahi, a spokesman for the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, said crews were posting signs and handing out fliers after routine tests on squirrels at William County Park determined they were infected.

He said the plague, a bacterial infection, can be transmitted from rodent fleas to animals and then to humans and is potentially deadly if not treated.

"It's a serious disease, that's why we do the monitoring program, so we can find it early and intervene," said Mizrahi.

ODE to SOLO

"Police are planning a full-honors funeral on Wednesday for a police dog killed during a police standoff with a former member of the Black Liberation Army on the New Jersey shore," reported UPI June 8, 1998.

The fugitive, Donald Bunting, was wanted in connection with a bank robbery in Asbury Park, N.J. Bunting barricaded himself in a house in Bradley Beach and held police at bay with gun fire.

Solo, a 3-year-old German shepherd, was sent into the house, exactly why is anyone's guess. And exactly what Solo was supposed to do once in the house is also a mystery. Here's a guy shooting at police from a barricaded apartment and the police send in a dog--smart, real smart. Solo may deserve a funeral with full honors--his handler deserves to have a few pay checks forfeited for stupidity.

THE NEW WORLD ORDER

Rather than write an article about the New World Order, we'll just let the elitists speak for themselves:

"This regionalization is in keeping with the Tri-Lateral Plan which calls for a gradual convergence of East and West, ultimately leading toward the goal of 'one world government.' National sovereignty is no longer a viable concept." --Zbigniew Brzezinski, National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter

"It is the sacred principles enshrined in the United Nations charter to which the American people will henceforth pledge their allegiance." --President George Bush addressing the General Assembly of the UN, February 1, 1992

"This program is the fixed, determined and approved policy of the government of the United States." --Senator Joseph S. Clark speaking on the floor of the Senate, March 1, 1962, about PL 87-297,3 which calls for the disbanding of all armed forces and the prohibition of their re-establishment in any form whatsoever

"By the end of this decade [2000 AD] we will live under the first One World Government that has ever existed in the society of nations. A government with absolute authority to decide the basic issues of human survival. One world government is inevitable." --Pope John Paul II, quoted by Malachi Martin in the book *The Keys of This Blood*

"We are on the verge of a global transformation. All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the New World Order." --David Rockefeller

"The New World Order is a world that has a supernational authority to regulate world commerce and industry; an international organization that would control the production and consumption of oil; an international currency that would replace the dollar; a World Development Fund that would make funds available to free and Communist nations alike; and an international police force to enforce the edicts of the New World Order." --Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, former chairman of the Fifth-Socialist International, who chaired the Brandt Commission in the late 1980s

"But this present window of opportunity, during which a truly peaceful and interdependent world order might be built, will not be open for long. Already there are

powerful forces at work that threaten to destroy all of our hopes and efforts to erect an enduring structure of global interdependence. --David Rockefeller, speaking at the Business Council for the UN, September 14, 1994

"A colossal event is upon us, the birth of a New World Order." --Brent Scowcroft, George Bush's National Security Advisor, on the eve of the Gulf War

"The Persian Gulf crisis is a rare opportunity to forge new bonds with old enemies (the Soviet Union). Out of these troubled times a New World Order can emerge under the United Nations that performs as envisioned by its founders." --President George Bush, September 11, 1990

"NAFTA is a major stepping stone to the New World Order." --Henry Kissinger when campaigning for the passage of NAFTA

"Further global progress is now possible only through a quest for universal consensus in the movement towards a New World Order." --Mikhail Gorbachev, in an address at the United Nations, December 1988

"We are not going to achieve a New World Order without paying for it in blood as well as in words and money." --Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., in *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 1995

"In short, the 'house of world order' will have to be built from the bottom up rather than the top down, to use William James' famous description of reality; but an end run around national sovereignty, eroding it piece by piece, will accomplish much more than the old-fashioned frontal assault." --Richard N. Gardner, in *Foreign Affairs*, April 1974

"We can't be so fixated to preserve the rights of ordinary Americans." --Pres. Bill Clinton

"To hell with the Constitution." --California Assemblyman Mike Roos, 1989

"USA a Communist Nation"

The United States is one of the most successful communist nations in history, says Butler D. Shaffer, who teaches law at Southwestern University, Los Angeles.

"I am amused at all of my conservative friends who really think that America is involved in a struggle with the forces of communism," Shaffer declared in an opinion column in the *Santa Ana Register* on Dec. 18, 1983.

"In point of fact," he declared, "the struggle is over. Communism won."

Shaffer asks: Who is the owner of human life? Once that question is answered we have the answer to his next question: Who decides what will happen to the life of any given person?

Any system ruled by political authority has answered both questions: the State owns all life within its borders, and the State has the ultimate decision-making authority over that life. The State decides whether any given life shall be sacrificed to its war games; the State decides how much of our life shall be spent producing wealth for it; the State decides how we shall take care of "our" bodies, whether by directing us to wear seatbelts or prohibiting us from consuming what it considers harmful substances; the State decides whether children shall go to school, when they shall go, and where; the State decides what conduct of ours shall be permitted ("legal") and what shall be prohibited ("illegal").

...the struggle is over. COMMUNISM WON.

Supermax--"A High-Tech Nightmare"

by Bill Gannon, *Newark Star-Ledger*

Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski has joined Timothy McVeigh and the World Trade Center bombers in what many consider the nation's toughest prison--Supermax--the high-tech Alcatraz of the Rockies, in Florence, Colorado.

Once there he was immediately stripped of his possessions, including notepads, pens and reading materials and placed into solitary confinement in a windowless concrete room where he can be monitored 24 hours a day, U.S. marshals said. He will remain in solitary until the prison's staff evaluates him and reconsiders his status.

At Florence, known as the nation's prison for terrorists, so tough that civil rights groups have protested its conditions as inhumane, Kaczynski, a techno-phobe who ranted against the dehumanizing aspects of industrial society, finds himself in a high-tech nightmare.

Designed by computers that recommended design, inmate management and other security innovations based on various escape scenarios, Florence houses offenders who require the highest security, said prison spokesman Louis Winn.

Located 100 miles southwest of Denver and completed in 1995 for more than \$60 million, it has already been dubbed "The Big One" by inmates.

"It will take Einstein's genius and more than a little luck to get out of this baby," architect John Quest said.

Set on 37 acres high in the Rocky Mountains, laser beams, silent pressure pads, dogs whose larynx have been removed so that they can attack without warning, walls of razor ribbon and armed guard towers provide strict

"prisoner management" for each of the 490 convicts.

More than 10,000 computer-controlled electronic gates close automatically in the event of an escape attempt. Cells are sound-proofed to prevent prisoners from communicating with each other. Librarians examine every page of every book touched by an inmate to make sure no messages are inserted.

Florence's convicts spend 23 hours a day locked within a 12-by-7 foot cell designed so they cannot make eye contact with each other or see anything except walls and sky--for those fortunate enough to be in a cell with a window.

When they do leave their cells, prisoners' hands and legs are shackled. Exercise time is minimal and outside contacts are limited. A courtroom inside the prison ensures inmates never leave the grounds.

TRAFICANT SPEAKS ABOUT RUBY RIDGE

Rep. James Traficant, (D-OH)

"Mr. Speaker, Federal agents killed his dog, they killed his 14-year-old son, and they killed his wife. Federal agents said they did not like his politics.

"Randy Weaver is a white separatist. My colleagues do not like his politics, and I do not like Weaver's politics either, but that is no reason for the government to gun down his family.

"Let me tell my colleagues something. This does not sound like the FBI of Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. This sounds like the KGB of Joseph Stalin.

"To make matters worse, a Federal judge dropped all charges against the FBI agent who shot Vicky Weaver right between the eyes while clutching her infant son. Shame, my colleagues. Congress, the Justice Department investigates themselves and then they cover their assets every time.

"We are a bunch of fools. It is time to put our government in order. Support H.R. 692 and put an independent counsel on these types of cases. Shame, Congress. No American family should be gunned down."

--*Congressional Record*, May 20, 1998

Reintroducing the Bricker Amendment

by David Howard

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the Supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.--Art. VI, Sec. 2

The Supreme Court, in the vast majority of decisions concerning this matter, has interpreted that ANY Treaty or Executive Agreement

(Executive Order etc.) takes precedence over the Constitution, as well as Federal, State and Local Law in the United States. Research indicates that there are 11,344 treaties and executive (presidential) agreements in place today. The implications of this are evident. The United States is experiencing international meddling in our internal affairs as never before. One need only look at many of the 185 decisions made by the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Global Accord on Tariff and Trade tribunals to recognize the effect they are having on American jobs, businesses and communities. Those decisions were made on the basis of Treaties, not U.S. Constitutional law; adjudicated by United Nations tribunals, not U.S. courts.

Recently the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, a treaty that on the surface espouses noble intentions--the control and destruction of all chemical devices of mass destruction. The reality of the matter however could be quite different. The treaty provides for unlimited inspection of any facility in any country that subscribes to the agreement. This would permit UN inspectors to conduct warrantless searches in direct violation of the Fourth amendment which protects us from unreasonable search and seizure. Needless to say, treaties can pose major threats to the individual guarantees of freedom, liberty and prosperity that have made us the envy of the world and the bane of tyrants for more than 200 years.

This constitutional threat was first recognized in 1952 by Senator John Bricker of Ohio, who tried to remedy the problem by means of a constitutional amendment. The Bricker Amendment, as it came to be called, provided an amendment to the treaty making powers by preventing *"any treaty or executive agreement from undermining the fundamental rights of the American people or from sacrificing essential attributes of sovereignty."* Specifically:

Section 1. A provision of a treaty, which conflicts with this Constitution, shall not be of any force or effect.

Section 2. A treaty shall become effective as internal law in the United States only through legislation, which would be valid in the absence of a treaty.

Section 3. Congress shall have the power to regulate all executive and other agreements with any foreign power or international organization. All such agreements shall be subject to the limitations imposed on treaties in this article.

Section 4. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

As Frank Chodorov of *Human Events* noted at the time, "The proposed amendment arises from a rather odd situation. A nation is threatened by invasion, not by a foreign army, but by its own legal entanglements. Not

soldiers, but theoreticians and visionaries attack its independence to bring its people under the rule of an agglomeration of foreign governments. This is something new in history. There have been occasions when a weak nation sought security by placing itself under the yoke of a strong one. But, here we have the richest nation in the world, and apparently the strongest, flirting with the liquidation of its independence. Nothing like this has ever happened before."

The Bricker Amendment originally had 56 co-sponsors, but was defeated in floor vote 42 to 50 with 4 not voting. A watered down version known as the George proposal also lost...by one vote.

When the amendment was defeated Frank E. Holman, president of the American Bar Association, wrote, "In the destiny of human affairs a great issue like a righteous cause does not die. It lives on and arises again and again until rightly won. However long the fight for an adequate constitutional amendment on treaties and other international agreements, it will and must be won. This will be the history of the Bricker Amendment as it has been the history of all other great issues and causes." Mr. Holman's prophecy has been realized in Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth's reintroduction of the amendment as HR 83 last fall.

In a time when we see UN Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage designations taking place with neither the knowledge or consent of local citizens, when we watch the shutdown and blackmail of mining, logging, farming, ranching and other resource operations as a result of international interference, it is time for Congress to put American first. It is time for the Bricker Amendment.

Government by treaty and executive order is no less onerous than the tyranny of George III. It is incumbent upon every citizen who treasures the freedom that this country affords its citizens to take back the reins of power by making every elected official responsive to YOUR wishes. Demanding a written position on the Bricker Amendment is a good place to start.

--*Liberty Matters*, Winter 97-98

Congressional Hearing Requested for the Pinelands

Honorable Ron Paul
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Paul,

I wish to commence this correspondence with a big THANK YOU for all that you have done. You are sir, what America needs in Congress.

The purpose of this correspondence is as follows.

I had the opportunity to assist in the forming of an old but not outdated idea, the New Jersey Committee of Safety in April of 1997.

The abuse which inspired this rebirth is found in the Pinelands of N.J. It has been designated as a United Nations Biosphere and has a commission that controls both very strictly and arrogantly the lives of the inhabitants. We worked diligently to establish lawful and educational resistance against this commission which is supported by both the State (public servants), its agencies and Federal agencies. What we were able to accomplish which others have failed was, more press, not positive I might add, causing much concern not only for this commission but for the various agencies and governor's office. We also submitted a three set resolution to the commission which was rejected by the commission and the attorney general's office. To my opinion we made the Pinelands Commission look extremely anti-American when they invited the communists of China to tour the Pinelands. An aide from the governor's office was sent to find a solution through a meeting with us which we declined because they rejected the resolutions. And I might add, sir, from the very beginning of our involvement the commission called in the New Jersey State Police. They came with clubs at the ready while we were in shirt and tie in open dialogue, at the so called public town meeting.

In my open dialog with this commission I stated that a way would be found to bring this commission before a congressional hearing. Therefore, allow me to present this question to you. Would there be any possibility of a congressional hearing, and could it be brought forth from outside the state? We will be glad to furnish any information that you request concerning this matter. Thanking you in advance.

For the New Jersey Committee and in the cause of freedom,

Earl G. Dickey

Dear Mr. Dickey,

Thank you for taking the time to contact my office with your kind and supportive words. It is reassuring and encouraging to hear from those, such as yourself, who understand the issues and the positive impact of a pro-freedom philosophy.

Continued participation in the political process by individuals such as yourself is absolutely necessary to the preservation of liberty, so highly esteemed by our nation's founders, as well as myself.

As I serve in the 105th Congress, rest assured that I shall continue to take very seriously my oath to uphold the Constitution of limited federal powers and work to make ours the freest, and hence most prosperous and tranquil society in the history of mankind.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to communicate your thoughts. I always appreciate hearing from those to whom power is vested in our Constitution, "the People of the United States."

Sincerely,
Ron Paul, 14th District, Texas

American "Heritage Rivers"

Note: The N.J. Committee of Safety sent this letter to 424 municipalities, 88 state legislators, and 42 Freeholders in the 16 counties affected by the President's AHR Initiative:

Dear [Elected Official],

According to the White House Council on Environmental Quality, you don't count!

Let us explain. As you may recall, President Clinton is soliciting nominations for the American Heritage Rivers Initiative program. Unknown persons, none of them elected, have nominated the Delaware, Passaic, Rahway and Raritan rivers in New Jersey.

But the Council on Environmental Quality says it will disregard whatever you or any other elected state, county or municipal official has to say about "opting out" of this federal scheme. The Council has arrogantly decided that it will accept only written communications from a congressman or congresswoman who opposes the designation of a river within his or her district.

Therefore, you don't count!

But why would anyone disfavor the American Heritage Rivers program? Some of the reasons are in the inclosures. Here are a few more:

Federal top-down land use controls over not just river towns, but (eventually) entire river counties and watersheds that feed the river

Devaluation of private property as more regulations are added

Breakdown of traditional political boundaries

Transfer of power from locally elected representatives to federally appointed bureaucrats

When the states created the federal government, they granted it only certain enumerated powers. The powers to lure [municipalities and counties] into a federal web

is not one of them. In that light we have enclosed a resolution in opposition to the river scheme. Perhaps you will consider the resolution favorably.

For the New Jersey Committee of Safety,
Ida Anderson

DRUG TESTING FOR CONGRESSMEN?

"If Congress requires drug testing for the CIA, FBI and military personnel then why shouldn't the same be required of the House and Senate?" This question was raised by Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis. Most Republicans are for the testing, most Democrats are against it.

ONE GOOD SENATOR

A former NJM member who moved to Missouri asked his senator for his opinion on the Second Amendment. Here is his response:

Dear On-Line Friend,

Thank you for contacting me relating your concerns regarding gun control. As your U.S. Senator, your views on vital issues are important to me. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you in the Senate and to be an active part in changing the way Washington does business.

I have always been a strong advocate of the Second Amendment and preserving the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear firearms. While the 1994 Crime Bill was well-intentioned, I believe it was wrong-headed. It did nothing to strengthen the laws punishing criminals who use guns and has severely restricted the rights of law-abiding citizens to participate in many activities involving guns.

James Madison, author of the Bill of Rights, decried the Old World governments for being "afraid to trust the people with arms." He reassured his countrymen that they did not need to fear their government because of "the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation." One cannot help but question whether Mr. Madison would be so optimistic today.

In a little more than two years, the Clinton Administration has established itself as the most anti-gun administration in recent history. Under the guise of fighting crime, federal agencies and cabinet departments have

supported policies which threaten the rights of law-abiding gun owners. These efforts include the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) support for research which portrays gun ownership as a hazardous activity; the Department of Education's promotion of programs biased against firearms ownership; and the Forest Service's proposal to outlaw firearms on public lands under its control. Unfortunately, administration officials forgot the basic rule: criminals do not obey laws. Dramatically restricting firearm ownership may sound good, but it would not stop crime, and it is an intolerable violation of our Second Amendment rights.

Like the European despots from whom our founding fathers fled, today's power brokers and policy wonks "are afraid to trust the people with arms." I do not share their fears. Instead, I am fearful of a government that does not trust the people who elected them. Understanding my long-held beliefs on Second Amendment issues, I fully intend to continue to oppose misguided legislation which infringes on the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

Thanks again for your interest in gun control. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely, John Ashcroft

ROCKY THE RAT

"Until America goes door to door, takes every handgun, this is what you're gonna have. It's pathetic. It really is pathetic. It's sad. We're living in the Dark Ages over there." So said macho movie actor Sylvester (Sly) Stallone from his home in England, in reference to the death of actor Phil Hartman who was shot to death by his wife for infidelity.

"It has to be stopped, and someone really has to go on the line, a certain dauntless political figure, and say, 'It's ending, it's over, all bets are off. It's not 200 years ago, we don't need this anymore, and the rest of the world doesn't have it. Why should we?'" he said. -- [You first, Sly.--Ed.]

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